



ART: RICHARD Y.



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Dear friends,

Easter and Passover have both come to a close and the beautiful rituals of the Christians and Jews have lifted up those who revere them. I hope those of you who practice either tradition have found the queer beauty available for our GLBTQ family in both the Exodus liberation story of Passover and the radical wall/boundary smashing message available in the resurrection story. These holidays can speak to us, I hope you have been able to hear them.

Black and Pink's newsletter has now been ongoing without interruption for over a year. This is an incredibly exciting moment for us. We have gotten in over 25 personal nominations from incarcerated people to sit on the Leadership Circle. Our "free world" volunteers continue to grow and our connection to people is ever strengthening our capacity as a family. We are striving to support ourselves financially and any ideas you have that you would like to share we would be appreciative. It is because of the wisdom of everyone that we are able to be where we are today.

This May 1st is the 125th Anniversary of the Haymarket affair. On this day in 1886 nearly half a million workers around the country rallied, marched, and protested for the agreed upon 8-hour work day. The Federation of Organized Trade and Labor Unions had set May 1st as the day that an 8-hour work day would become the national standard. In Chicago, community organizing anarchists Albert and Lucy Parsons, led the largest protests of the day with 90,000 people marching down the streets of Chicago. They were ready to make their demands heard and there was no compromising to be done!

Workers in Chicago were on strike as this was going on and on May 4th during a rally a bomb exploded that killed a police officer and injured a large number of other people, cops and protesters alike. While it has been made abundantly clear that the bomb was set off by the company thugs, many still believe that the disaster and deaths of the day was the responsibility of the anarchists who organized the rally. Five of the anarchists involved with the organizing that day were railroaded through a sham trial (something many of you are familiar with) and put to death in November of 1887. The men executed were August Spies, Albert Parsons, Adolph Fischer, and George Engel. As they were led out to be hanged they sang together the *Marseillaise*, the song of the international revolutionary movement and as he was about to die August Spies cried out, "The time will come when our silence will be more powerful than the voices you strangle today!" He wanted to executioners to know that the movement would continue on and victory would turn the five men into martyrs, he was right.

The gifts of anarchist organizing are essential for us as queer people and people impacted by the prison industrial complex. Black and Pink began as an explicitly anarchist organizing effort and continues to hold strong to anarchist principles. Kuwasi Balagoon, who we shared history about a few issues ago, was a queer New Afrikan anarchist who wrote, "With anarchy, the society as a whole not only maintains itself at an equal expense to all, but progresses in a creative process unhindered by any class, caste or party." Those of us who have known oppression and who are actively resisting the violence of oppression can find voice and power through an anarchist revolutionary moment. As LGBTQ people we need to recognize that our history is intertwined with anarchist movements. It was Alexander Berkman, anarchist organizer in the late 19th Century/early 20th Century, who wrote the first public celebration of same-sex sexuality and romance as political acts of subversion. Berkman wrote specifically about the role of same-sex/queer love for incarcerated people. This anarchist history is our LGBTQ history!

So please celebrate May Day this year and do so knowing that our movements are connected and indeed, once there were no prisons, that day will come again!

-Jason



Welcome, Jennifer!

Dear Black & Pink family,

Revolutionary greetings, comrades! Thank you for my first Black & Pink newsletter issue, Feb. 2011, which I thoroughly enjoyed.

I'm a 41 year old transgender womyn and have been held captive in the State of California concentration camps for over 21 years, including nearly 14 years in the "ASU" and SHU torture units. As a bisexual / transsexual / lesbian inmate I want to thank you for your efforts on behalf of the LGBTQ prisoners.

As an Amazon Queen and revolutionary feminist prison resister, I want to commend you for the bios of Kuwasi Balagoon, Marsha P. Johnson and Audre Lorde. These were true revolutionary comrades who should always be commemorated for their contributions to the people's liberation movements.

In solidarity!

Jennifer A. G.

"Courageous are we..."

Hello. My name is Raven Navajo, a 40-ish transgender female, currently serving a 10 to Life in Lovelock, NV.

I was convicted of murder two of which I turned myself in and confessed. Yes, I'm one of the few not denying guilt nor seeking appeal. I think I got off light with 10L.

Anyway, that's not what this is about. This is to my brothers and sisters. I want each and every one of you LGBTQ to know your own courage. I served active duty in the navy for nearly 20 years before my transition.

I've known bravery under fire. Served in the First Persian Gulf War. Was in the Phillipines when Corazon Aquino couped Marcos. I saw heroism, valor and courage.

I have never, ever met one of you who was not one of the most courageous people I've ever had the pleasure of knowing.

To live your life as you WANT, not what others want for you, even those who love you, is "the" most courageous act a person could undertake.

I was never more scared to transition at 38. Even after all that military bravado, I knew fear that day. Sweating, pulse racing, heart stopping fear. And to this day...

...I've never regretted a second.

Stay brave children, you are courageous, even if you don't know it.

Love,
Raven

"Lost Love"

I met him in 2008, too bad we couldn't even go on a date. His name is David A.L., I met him in a Texas County Jail. Oh damn he looked so awesome, he even said he came from Boston. Oh, how he took my breath away, we were perfectly matched in every way. I wish I knew where he was this very day. I went home and we lost touch, if only he knew that I love him so much. He did two years now I'm doing five, it hurts so bad I try not to cry. I tell you now because love comes and goes through life. The one I loved named David A.L.

-Timothy AKA 'Crash'

“The Serious Moonlight”

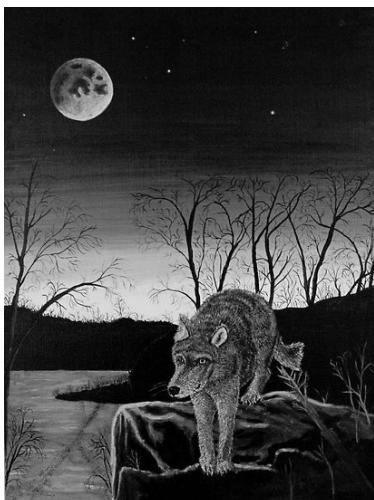
Shee Dane walked down the crowded New York City Street, towards celebrating finally, fully embracing the true spirit of womanhood - pulled forth by the full moon.

Her hips, swaying to the rhythms of her soul-songs of self-acceptance, trans-gendering nature into a liberation movement. Working the runway, her strut-translating. The stars being her crown, on hair (imported from India) hung to her waistline, black as the night with the color purple highlights in luxuriant waves, like the starlit, moon-struck sea.

Her body spilling a fragrant scent extracted from Golden roses grown only in the South of France. The silver silk fabric, fashioned into a 60's style Twiggy Empire mini dress, stopped at her mid thighs. Hidden between her legs, tucked secretly away for none to discover, the unwanted flesh she labeled her birth defect. The curse her spirit rejected, and her nature defied.

Down to her platinum Roman sandals and Misty Mocha colored toe nails, Shee became a woman, with all her might! She swayed, rhythms, soul-song, acceptance, celebration, liberation, tucked flesh, rejection, defiance, transforming, translation, transgendering, as Shee strutted, into the serious moonlight; and then, handcuffed by the morning light.

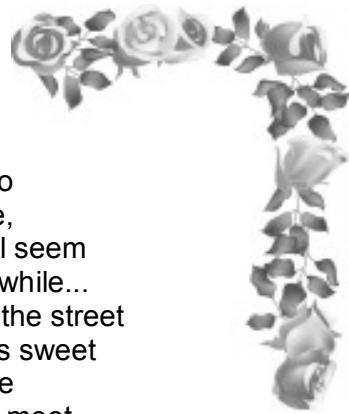
by Valjean R.



ARTWORK: RICHARD Y.

“Smile”

When you do what you do
with a will and a smile,
Everything that you do will seem
twice as worthwhile...
and when you walk down the street
life will seem twice as sweet
if you smile at the people
you happen to meet...
for when you smile it is true
folks will smile back at you...
So do what you do
with a will and a smile
and whatever you do
will be twice as worthwhile.
-Frank R.



“Ocean Spray”

Ocean spray on my face as I pray to the blessed Mother Goddess of the night sky where the stars lay! Upon their bow the heavens she is hung! The Moon Mother her praises I sung as I dance around the bonfire flames as the SACRED Rite I Run! “Ocean Spray” for straight, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or gay are all the Goddesses children she does love to play! Her loving presence is eternal and her embracement will never stray! Face to Face is the embrace the Mother Goddess of nature who's mist is the ocean spray! Fresh scents, warm spirits and jolly making with our Ancestors on a Samhain Night! One of love and reunion with dead loved ones, not one of fear or fright! Sand between my toes and the scent of ocean spray on a warm Summer night in the Arms of my lover I lay!

Joseph S. AKA 'Twitch'



ARTWORK: SHAUN W.

"I Hurt So Bad"

I hurt so bad
because you wasn't there
When I needed you the most
I needed your strength
to help me through
I needed you to help ease the pain
I needed you to counsel me

I hurt so bad
Cause you wasn't by my side
Cause you did guide me through
Cause I needed you to be by my side
I needed your love
I needed you to hold me
I needed your shoulder to cry on
I needed your touch

I hurt so bad
Cause you wasn't a father to me
Cause I needed your attention
to know something was wrong
I needed you to be more than a mother
I needed you to be a friend
I needed you to be there
That's why I hurt so bad.

-William C.

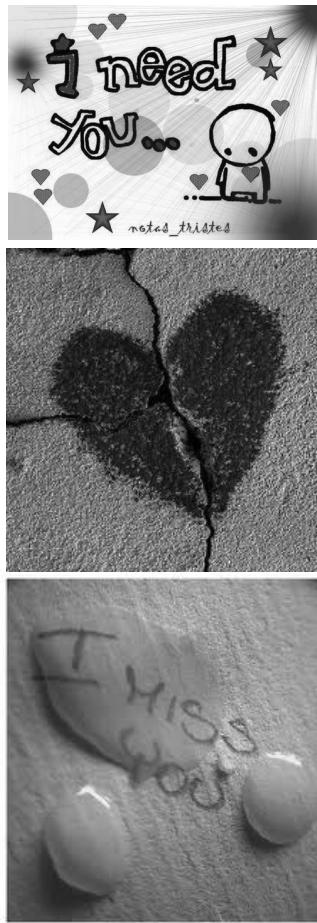
"Grandparents"

Loving you was easy
I did it everyday
Missing you is a heartache
Which will never go away

If I could have one wish or a dream
that will come true
I would pray to God
with all my heart for him to
bring yall back to me
so we could do all the things we use to do

A thousand words couldn't
bring yall back to me I tried
neither would a thousand tears
I know because I cried
neither if I try to hurt myself
I know cause I tried
nothing would work

My choice left me
with a broken heart
but God gave me a second chance
I would give up everything
Just for us to be together
Hopefully we'll be together soon.
-William C.



LGBTQ folks and the Military

Given the submissions in this and recent newsletters from Black and Pink family members related to ancient war heroes, experiences in the military, and the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) policy in December 2010, the editors thought it would be a good time to briefly present anti-war queer politics.

We want to recognize that bravery, strength, courage, camaraderie, and fighting back are all amazing characteristics, and are shared by many people—people who have served in militaries and people who have not, people on the front lines of revolutionary struggles, and people creating the community to be worth fighting for. Some people have had rewarding experiences in the military and some have suffered; however, this does not undo the fact that the US military is one of the greatest perpetrators of violence and abuse in the world. We're all coming from different places, but we can join together in an army for queer liberation and prison abolition. To spark discussion, here are some critiques of the fight for repeal of DADT:

- Queers for Economic Justice: "believes military service is not economic justice, and it is immoral that the military is the nation's de facto jobs program for poor and working-class people. And since QEJ organizes LGBTQ homeless people in New York City, we wanted to remind the LGBT community and progressive anti-war allies that militarism and war profiteering do not serve the interests of LGBT people." We need access to positive, healing, empowering, creative, green jobs, instead!
- The US military-industrial complex perpetuates violence against people in every region of the world under pretenses of human rights and democracy with obvious subtexts of resource interests and geo-political control. In Iraq alone, roughly 1,500,000 Iraqis and 4,500 thousand US soldiers and have died. Wars to liberate women in Third World countries result in the deaths of women (and men, including LGBTQ folks).
- Erica Meiners & Theresa Quinn: "Let's forget repealing DADT and cut right to the chase: Repeal the Department of Defense. What about establishing a Department of Peace...?"
- Prioritizing the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell", which may increase the number of soldiers in the imperialist US military machine, meant de-prioritizing crucial queer / trans economic justice issues.

Legal Advice from Warrior K

Dear Black and Pink Family,

I was just reading some of the submissions from the last issue of B&P, and I was very saddened to read of some of the conditions that my fellow brothers and sisters are living through. And it seems as if similar situations come up almost every month...

Nothing will ever change as long as we sit by idly and "wish." AS they say, wish in one hand and shit in the other and see which gets filled up first.

WE, that means me and YOU, have got to take direct action OURSELVES if anything is ever going to change. It will never happen otherwise. And for the record, I have personally written close to 100 (or more) letters to legal groups, attorneys, etc., asking for help. Sometimes you can get some helpful info, but as for direct help... keep wishing. Further I have tried going through various jailhouse lawyers and prisoner research groups and have been ripped off of about \$4000 and now am penniless, with no outside help at all. I haven't experienced everything you have, but I have gone through my share. I am about as on my own as you could possibly be.

I have filed over 153 complaints per my BOP record as of November 10, 2010, and have filed several more since then. I currently have 5 civil cases of my own which I am juggling, and have lost 3 or so previously. The only way things will change is if WE change them. NO ONE on the outside can do anything to help us if we don't make them aware of what's going on inside, and the only way to legitimately do that is to file complaints.

Now, I know you're out there saying, "But I don't know how!" Well, my first civil complaint, and several motions filed during the course of the case, were hand written on sheets of paper and I had NO CLUE what I was doing. But since I have kept at it, I have learned a hell of a lot, and filed my most recent harassment and retaliation case against prison staff on March 10, 2011. I thought I did pretty well, but it hasn't been processed yet, so we shall see. (Prayers are welcomed!)

The point is, there are several cases out there about being stuck in segregation for excessively long periods of time, and there are also several about being physically abused by prison staff and inmates. I have even read from you that some of you have been sexually abused by other inmates and there are cases against staff for placing you in a situation like that to begin with.

If you "hope" that things will change, they won't. You have GOT to file grievances if you want anything to change, and then you have GOT to follow through and file civil complaints in court. That's the only way that things are going to change.

OK, now I hear, "But if I do, things will only get worse for me." That is definitely possible. I have spent the last five months in the Hole based on a "shot" that was completely made up by two investigative lieutenants and was later thrown out without a hearing, and now I'm being transferred from a medical center to another prison – all because of those 153+ complaints. And you know what I did after they put me in here? I filed four more grievances.

Honey, these people are gonna SHIT when my civil suit hits. But you know what, being in the Hold for these past five months is the reason I had plenty of time to work on my legal work and learn the best way to get this suit filed. And I am still going through the grievance process for this latest BS. F—ck 'em!

I still struggle, and there's a lot I don't know, but I've come a long way in these past years, and as long as I make them pay, that's all that matters.

Please don't think that I don't care. I do care. But I can't change things by myself, and no one else will do it for you. Take action! The first thing you've got to do is follow your prison's grievance procedures and be sure to follow through with any appeals and do not blow them off. If anyone needs info on what to do or needs to know cases which will help their situation, then please start your grievances and send a letter to B&P asking them to print your letter, and I or someone will make sure you get whatever limited knowledge we may be able to pass on. We're all in this struggle together, but it's going to take all of us to make any real progress. Don't leave it up to someone else.

For starters, you can write the ACLU National Prison Project and ask for information. That's all you'll get and it will take several months to receive that (long enough for you to forget you even wrote), but it's a start. Write to ACLU National Prison Project, 915 15th St. NW, 7th Floor, Washington, DC 20005-2112.

Ok, as for those of you in long-term Seg. You have a right to be somewhere you can do your time safely and it's the prison staff's responsibility to make sure that that happens. If you're not safe where you are, then by gosh they need to make sure you get somewhere that you can do your time safely. Cont. p.6

Legal Advice cont. & the PLRA

Cont. Indefinite segregation is cruel and unusual punishment (8th Amendment). Cases to get you started are: Wilkinson v. Austin, 545 U.S. 209, 224, 162 L.Ed.2d 174, 125 S.Ct. 2384 (2005); Furman v. Georgia, 408 U.S. 238 (1976); Jenkins v. Haubert, 179 F.ed19 (2d Cir. 1999); Walter v. Shansky, 28 F.3d 666 (7th Cir. 1994); Shelley v. Dugger, 833 F.2d 1420 (11th Cir. 1987).

For those of you being abused physically by staff, check out these cases: Hudson v. McMillian, 503 U.S. 1117 L.Ed.2d 156, 112 S.Ct. 995 (1992); Douglas v. Owens, 50 F.3d 1226 (3rd Cir. 1995); Hudspeth v. Figgins, 584 F.2d 1345 (4th Cir. 1978); Parkus v. Delo, 135 F.3d 1232 (8th Cir. 1998).

For those of you who have been sexually assaulted or even placed in situations where you could be, check out these cases: Nelson v. Shuffman, 603 F.3d 439 (8th Cir. 2010); Young v. Kann, 926 F.2d 1396 (3rd Cir. 1991).

Keep this in mind: retaliation is a great claim to use as a basis for a suit for verbal harassment and for many other awful conditions, but you must establish a link between your exercising protected constitutional right, such as filing a grievance, and their action taken in retaliation. This won't work if you don't actively file grievances. You could also try discrimination of a protected class, but I haven't gone that route yet. Retaliation cases: Hinebaugh v. Wiley, 137 F.Supp.2d 69 (N.D.Ny 2001); Higgins v. Beyer, 293 F.3d 683 (3rd Cir. 2002); Johnson v. Stovall, 233 F.3d 486 (7th Cir. 2000); Hartsfield v. Nichols, 511 F.3d 826 (8th Cir. 2007).

To my knowledge, there has never been a LGBTQ support group like B&P before, and the only reason there is now, is because someone DID something, instead of just wishing. Their support and just receiving the newsletter and knowing that someone is out there means so much to me it brings tears to my eyes just thinking about it. But we in prison have to support their efforts until there's nothing left to fight about. Until, as Jason says, there are no more prisons.

My heart goes out to all of you. As long as there is breath in me, I will never stop fighting. If they're going to keep us in here, lets make 'em pay for it. Don't give up! Keep fighting!!

-Warrior K

Black and Pink says: Many, many thanks to Warrior K for sharing all of this information and these incredible resources. Black and Pink will attempt to back up people who are taking on the institution. While we are not a giant network, we will do all that we can as people on the outside to hold prisons accountable for any actions they take against you, especially as you stand up for yourselves.

Another thing to keep your eye on is the **Prison Litigation Reform Act (PLRA)**. This is a horribly violent piece of legislation passed in 1996 that severely limits the ways prisoners have access to the legal system. If you need a copy of the full act, please let us at B&P know. The organization, Human Rights Watch, writes this about the PLRA,

"The law limits access to the federal courts for the more than 2.3 million incarcerated adults and children in the United States. Key concerns with the law include:

Prisoners who fail to follow internal complaint procedures to the letter are barred from the courts; before a prisoner may file a lawsuit in court, he must first take his complaints through all levels of the prison's or jail's grievance system, complying with all deadlines and other often complex procedural rules of that system. If the prisoner fails to comply with all technical requirements, or misses a filing deadline that may be as short as a few days, the right to sue may be lost forever.

Victims of sexual assault and other abuse cannot sue unless they also suffer physical injury. A prisoner may not recover compensation for "mental or emotional injury" without making a "prior showing of physical injury." Under this provision, prisoners who have been subjected to sexual assault and other intentional abuse by prison staff have been denied a remedy.

No exceptions for children. The provisions of the law apply not only to adult prisoners, but also to children confined in prisons, jails, and juvenile detention facilities.

Restrictions on court oversight of prison conditions. The law restricts the power of federal courts to make and enforce orders limiting overcrowding or otherwise remedying unlawful conditions in prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities. Limitations on attorney fees. If a prisoner files a lawsuit and wins, the law limits the amount the prisoner's attorneys can be paid.

Lawsuits brought by prisoners have historically played a key role in enforcing minimal standards of health and safety in US prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities. But the PLRA has had a devastating effect on prisoners' access to the courts. Since it was passed, the number of lawsuits filed by incarcerated persons has fallen dramatically, and far fewer prisons are under court oversight."

"We need to come together"

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I want to open up with a question. How many of you out there (prison or streetside) are trying to do the right thing? How many of you are trying to pull together and make a stand once and for all?

To answer for myself, I believe I've done right. I have stood up against the dregs of society, gang bangers and such, who think they can step all over others. I have backed up the LGBTQ community because I myself am a 25 yr old bi-sexual male. I am attracted to transgender women and feminine men. I have been locked up a little more than 8 years now. I have never once failed to back up another person who was out numbered or who could not fend for themselves. I am a fighter. A warrior.

Then there are the let-downs. Many times I had thought that people like me and such would back me up or stand with me. Where those people had been, ended up as empty spaces. I want to know how many of you have gone through this. I'm not trying to drudge up the bad times. I'm trying to bring to light of things that are still happening. Why? Because, we, as a community, a people placed into a hard spot, have to fix among ourselves before we can knock a hole in this nation a place for ourselves. There's a problem in these times.

It's called 'selfishness' or 'greed to be the only one seen' and that in many situations is causing our losses in the battle against the political elements. How many gay politicians are out there? Not a damn one I can see. Why? Because they have been ferreted out. Because no one's backing each other up. Our country has fallen into the path of socialism or something pretty damn close. That's very bad for us!

We need to come together. That's it. One force! Otherwise our fight is going to last until the end of times. We will gain ground and then lose an instant later. How can I prove this? Read the newsletter. See the story one person or another has send in describing the brutality, the rape, the demoralizing times they have endured. The pain they have gone through. Read them. Most of those people didn't have someone to back them up. Why? Why aren't people coming together? I honestly don't have an answer. I wish I did. It pains me because I've been through a lot of tough times.

I came into prison not old enough to be out past city curfew time. Some bad things have happened to me since. A lot of attempts have been made with aggressors and predators receiving bodily damage, and I'm damn proud to be the one who did it. But no one came to help me out and that in the long run has caused some bitterness, yeah, I admit. I get mad at knowing how many of us out there could pull together (and scare the s**t out of predators and people who target us) but don't.

Check this out. Looking back on history, what made Alexander the Great so powerful in the field of battle? He taught his men to love each other as lovers and brothers, therefore they would fight for each other 200%, becoming the most elite army at the time. The history books in school didn't reveal that, did they? Nope. But it's true. There are too many weak spots and holes in our walls to ensure a successful fight for victory.

I'm out in 23 months, and I'm afraid to leave some people behind. As a matter of fact, I don't have anything to get out to. I don't have any roads open to me. All I have are the few friends left on the outside.

Can we pull together into a force to be reckoned with? Or will we fall prey to the hate crimes for the rest of our lives? Here's common sense law: you control your own destiny. Fight for your right to be treated like a human being that you are. Nothing less.

Come together for each other. All of us are in the same boat. Do you want to survive? I do.

-Cail-

Reed says:

Though they may not be fighting for collective liberation, there are dozens of gay and lesbian politicians in this country. In Massachusetts, for example. Rep. Barney Frank has been in office since 1980 and has been openly gay since 1987. He supports death penalty moratoriums, but also hate crimes legislation (which effectively extends prison sentences and tracks crime, but doesn't prevent it at all).



ARTWORK: P. Hunter F.

"Inspired by Greek History"

Many LGBTQ people today allow others to step all over them. Sexual orientation has nothing to do with someone's ability to stand-up for ones self or for others. However, it may be an inherent trait of some people to shy away from any and all paths which lead to confrontation. It is therefore the duty of the strong to shoulder the burdens and infirmities of the weak and the downtrodden. This is most definitely a way to strengthen our community. Just because one is outside of the current societal norms does not mean that one's only choice is to be a milque toast, and many of us, indeed, are not. A large number of us are by nature proactive and motivated. Strong or weak, we should all feel compelled by necessity to aid in the struggle. Revolution does not come from being the reactive force, it comes from being the proactive force. We are renegades because we are part of the counter-culture. Being renegades it is our collective duty to stand strong both for ourselves as well as others and to push for acceptance and equality.

There have been many strong LGBTQ figures throughout history just as there are many now but I shall cite only a few examples. First of all there were the warriors of ancient Greece. Spartan society was a pederastic one. Now, I am not promoting pederasty but simply building my case on the open-mindedness of Greek culture on sexuality. Young Spartans-in-training were assigned to an older (usually around twenty years old) 'mentor.' This was someone to instruct him in the arts of war as well as being his partner. These Spartans were the same people portrayed in Frank Miller's graphic novel and movie '300.' They were extremely tough men and war was their only occupation. The Spartans at one time suffered a defeat at the hands of the Theban 'Sacred Band,' which was comprised of 300 (150 pairs) of gay warriors. 600 of the toughest men ever to see the light of this world clashed in battle refusing to back down until victory was decided. We have a lot in common with these warriors.

The next example I will use to illustrate my point is Alexander the Great, one of the most well-respected conquerors in all of history. His conquests ranged from Egypt all the way to India. Alexander is known to have been in relationship with both women and men although it is widely believed that he was forced to marry by his mother in order to sire a male heir. His most trusted aide and advisor was the real love of his life. His men knew of this but as history tells it they still respected him. This is another great person in history who was part of the LGBTQ community.

Finally, we look to Sappho, the renowned poet hailing from the island of Lesbos. We owe to her, at least in part, the term lesbian, and completely to her, the term Sapphic. She was not a warrior in the same sense as the previous examples but she was a warrior of the written word. She expressed and held dear who she was through her poetry and even through all of the attempted cover-ups of her sexuality, she is still known for her openness and her desire for other women. Greek history is replete with examples of strong LGBTQ people, but Sappho is perhaps the most well-known.



A large portion of Greek society was once unashamed of their sexuality but Christianity found its way into the culture of the Greeks and infected the people with its concepts of sin and salvation. Religion is evolving and in the future many religions will accept the LGBTQ community. As of now, there is still a stigma. On the island of Lesbos the people resent the use of the word Lesbian when it is used in reference to gay females. They also resent the LGBTQ tourists who make their pilgrimage there to experience one of the key places of their history. Whatever the case, Sappho left her legacy. Take a lesson from her and leave yours as well.

If these men could fight bravely and this woman's legacy could not be erased, then why should we not stand against those cowards and bigots who, for the most part, are mere wind bags and most surely not people of action? Can we not stand together and show strength in solidarity? Can we not leave our own immutable legacy? Look to these great people and know that their acceptance may have been due in part to the cultured climate of their time and know also that that time can and will come again. The decision to take action is yours alone. Choose wisely, for the fate of those who you hold dear may rest in your hands. Farewell. Adam E.

Ian says:

I think there are some situations that you cannot control. Yes, we should fight back and take charge of our lives, but I want to state clearly that it is not someone's fault if they were assaulted.

Last Chance! Join the Leadership Circle!

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You voice is important! You can be on the Leadership Circle.

Please send us back the form below if you want to join the Leadership Circle (LC). The "free world" LC will put all the entries ("free world" and incarcerated) together and send it back in a Newsletter so everyone can vote for 10 people in prison and 10 people in the "free world". Prisoner votes will count double. The concept of a group of 20 people (10 people in prison and 10 people in the "free world") has been chosen so there can be many voices, and not be too big to make communication hard. If more people want to be on the Leadership Circle than can, we hope people will coordinate B&P projects in their prison, start a chapter, be a contact person, or regularly share thoughts. We need it all :)

If you join the Leadership Circle, written training will be provided about decisions making, organizing, and other skills that LC members request training on. All levels of experience can respond, what's most important is our passion and commitment.

The B&P Purpose and Analysis will best be served by having a diversity of people on the Leadership Circle. This includes race, gender, sexuality, age, geography, lifers/short-timers, ability, etc. To meet this goal, please answer the questions on the entry form. We would like to be at least half people of color, not majority male, and well-represented by lifers and people with long sentences.

This is the timeline for creating the Leadership Circle:

March, April, May: Announcement of LC election is in monthly Newsletter.

May 15: Please mail your letters by this date. You can send them earlier than this.

June and July: Ballots will go out in both Newsletters; only vote once!

August 15: Counting of Ballots

September: Announcement in Newsletter

(tear on this line)

I want to join the Leadership Circle! Mail-in Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Why do you want to join the Leadership Circle? (65 words max. Please write as neat as possible. You can mention your leadership skills and your beliefs about prison, sexuality, and gender, and anything else you want. If writing is hard for you, please get help, or let us know that we should edit your writing.)

What is your....

Race: _____

Sexuality: _____

Gender: _____

Location: _____

Age: _____

Length of Sentence : _____

Other: _____

Please return this form by May 15 to:
Black and Pink- Leadership Circle
565 Boylston St
Boston, MA 02116

Newsletter Subscriptions (start or stop)

Black and Pink– Newsletter Subscriptions

Newsletter Submissions

Black and Pink– Newsletter Submissions

Free “Outside” Pen-Pal Requests

Black and Pink– Pen Pal

Free Prisoner 2 Prisoner Pen-Pal List

Black and Pink– P2P List

Ideas for Black & Pink and
Statement of Purpose Feedback

Black and Pink– Developing Leadership

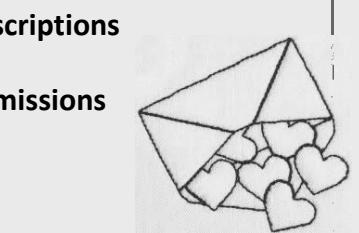
Write to B&P!

**c/o Community Church of Boston
565 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116**

Write to B&P Art!

****New Address as of January 2011! ****

**Black & Pink Art c/o Reed Miller
200 Amory Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130**



LEGAL: Consider writing to Lambda Legal for support or referrals with legal issues that you are having. “Lambda Legal is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and those with HIV through impact litigation, education and public policy work.”

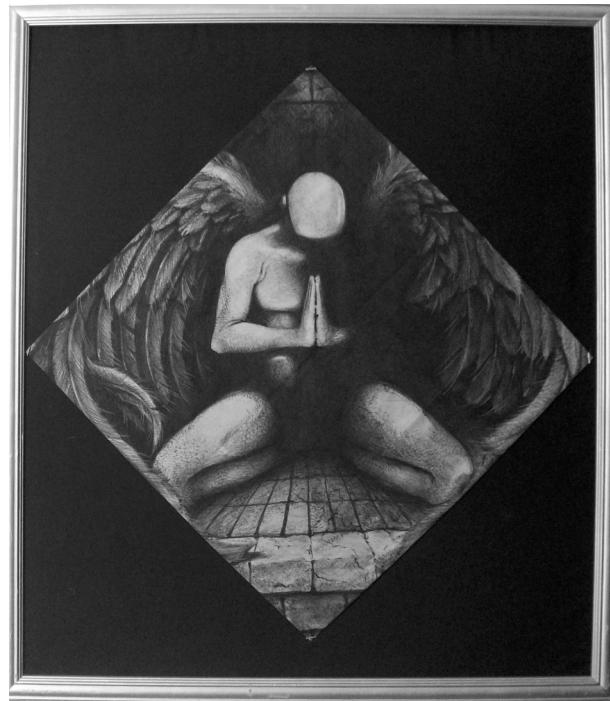
Lambda Legal, National Office 120 Wall Street, Suite 1500, New York, NY 10005, 212-809-8585

Another resource to turn to, if you can afford the subscription (\$24 yearly, payable with new stamps), is Prison Legal News. This resource was co-started by a former gay prisoner, Ed Mead, though now it is run by Paul Wright. You can reach them by writing to: **Prison Legal News, P.O. Box 2420, West Brattleboro, VT 05303**

SURVIVORS: Just Detention International provides support for prisoners who are survivors of sexual abuse. Write them at the legal address below for a packet. Each packet includes an introductory letter, a list of local resources, fact sheets, publications about recovery from sexual abuse, and a letter of hope from another survivor.
Ms. Melissa Rothstein, Esq., 3325 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 340, Los Angeles, CA 90010



ARTWORK: ROBERT C.



ARTWORK: WILLIE M.

Editor’s Note: Last names have been shortened to last initials beginning in this newsletter. This newsletter is posted on the internet, and can be searched by search engines. We want to respect people’s privacy.